

June 16, 2019
ENCOUNTER Holy Spirit
Unblocking the Flow of
the Holy Spirit

Gerry described the Holy Spirit in terms of living water that provides life and nourishment to the soul, and yet, so often God's people forsake Him - the source of spiritual life and vitality - in favour of man-made replacements (Jer. 2:12-13). What alternative sources of "water" are you seeking out to provide satisfaction in your soul? In what ways do these sources satisfy? How do they fall short?

John 7:39 – Jesus said that the Living water is the Holy Spirit. He gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who will believe and receive Him. However, there are many ways that we block the flow of the Holy Spirit into our lives, including...

- **Blaspheming the Holy Spirit** — attributing works of Jesus to Satan, or denying the existence or Lordship of the Trinity
- **Resisting the convicting work of the Holy Spirit** — not believing or surrendering one's life to Jesus.

What is preventing you from surrendering your life to Jesus? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal this to you.

- **Insulting the Holy Spirit** by turning your back on all that He has done for you through Jesus
- **Quenching the Holy Spirit** by stopping or shutting down the work, manifestations and gifts of the Holy Spirit

Have you ever rejected the Holy Spirit? Have you ever rejected His gifts?

- **Lying to the Holy Spirit** — deceiving other believers as to your spiritual maturity and devotion (e.g. Ananias and Sapphira lied about their sacrifices).

How can we differentiate between true spiritual maturity and false humility?

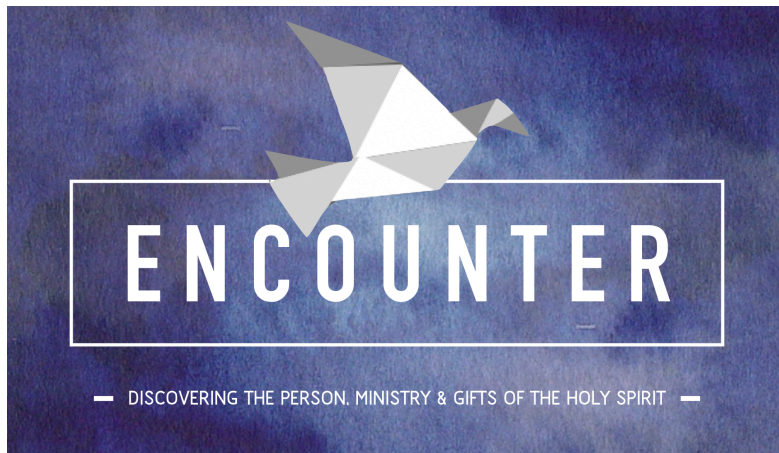
- **Grieving the Holy Spirit** — to hurt, sadden, or cause emotional pain/turmoil. (e.g. Relational discord, bitterness, unforgiveness, unconfessed sin, etc.)

Do you have any unforgiveness, bitterness, unconfessed sin or relational discord right now? Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal these to you.

How do we unblock the Holy Spirit's Flow?

1. We respond in faith to His convicting truth — seek God's forgiveness when you break His word or feel the Holy Spirit's prompting
2. We repent of sin that transgresses His word — acknowledge disobedience, then commit to live obediently (Hebrews 10:29)
3. We pursue relational unity with His people — broken relationships in the Church grieve the heart of the Holy Spirit and hinder our intimacy with Him (Ephesians 4:1-3,30).

Is there someone in the Church you need to mend your relationship with? What is a practical step you can take towards this goal?



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4. Express spiritual honesty to His people — speak the truth about your spiritual life, devotion and practices to people. Don't oversell your commitment, claim to be someone you're not, or deceive others about your sacrifices (Romans 9:1, Acts 5:3)
5. Welcome His manifestations and gifts — don't fear the Holy Spirit's manifestations and gifts. We must not let our pride, desire to control, or lack of trust in Him get in the way.

What kinds of gifts has the Holy Spirit given you? How do you feel about them and the responsibilities they present you in using them for His kingdom? (1 Corinthians 14:1, 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21)

"God doesn't fill us with His Spirit just for His own benefit. He fills us to spill us. He wants to fill us so those dying of spiritual thirst may drink of the Living Water." — Rob Reimer, River Dwellers.

In what ways can you "spill over" into the lives of those who need spiritual living water?

On Sunday, did the Holy Spirit reveal what He is saying to you through this series or the message?

Take a moment to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you now what He is trying to say to you through this series or the messages.